

FIVE BRITISH WARSHIPS OFF VIRGINIA CAPES AWAIT EITEL

Captain Kiehne Gives State Department Complete Facts Concerning Destruction of American Wheat Vessel.

Bernstorff States German Position on Sinking of the Frye. Auxiliary Cruiser, Bottled Up, Expected to Interne.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., March 13.—Five British warships are patrolling the entrance of the Virginia capes today to head off any attempt by the Prinz Eitel Friedrich at a sudden dash for freedom. The news was taken to Newport News by the British steamship Anglo-Patagonian, in ballast from Swansea for a cargo of horses. The crew said the war vessels were sighted Friday night, the Anglo-Patagonian steaming through their blockading lane just before dark.

SIGHTED BY SECOND SHIP. That one of the British men-of-war off the capes is either the Lancaster, the Berwick, or the Essex, is the belief of Captain Downs, of the American oil tank steamer Ardmore, which before she took American registry, was the German craft Delphine. The Ardmore arrived at Newport News this morning in the wake of the Anglo-Patagonian.

Captain Kiehne, Under Oath, Tells Lansing About Frye's Sinking

Capt. H. H. Kiehne, of Baltimore, the captain of the merchant vessel, William P. Frye, which was sunk by the German auxiliary cruiser, Prinz Eitel Friedrich, made a statement under oath to-day.

MONTROSE ASHORE CALLING FOR HELP

Canadian Pacific Liner in Distress on Portugal Bank Near Mt. Bura, Senegal.

BORDEAUX, March 13.—The Canadian Pacific liner Montrose is ashore on the Portugal bank near Mt. Bura, Senegal, on the west coast of Africa, according to cable messages received here today.

The Montrose is a 2,207-ton, four-masted steamer built in 1907. She is 444 feet long and has a breadth of fifty-two feet, with accommodations for several hundred passengers. Capt. G. S. Webster is in command.

At the outbreak of the war the Montrose was commandeered by the British government for use as a troop ship. She was used to transport the first Canadian contingent to Europe, and is believed to be still in use as a transport.

It is assumed that she either was returning with British troops from South Africa or was transporting Portuguese troops into the Portuguese possessions in Africa for offensive movements against the German colonies. The Montrose figured in the first international wireless drama. It was aboard her that Dr. Aronson, notorious wife slayer, was intercepted in his flight from London to America. Captain Kendall, later master of the ill-fated Empress of Ireland, was in command of the Montrose when a wireless message announced that Crippen was on board and requested that he be placed under arrest.

Imported La Carolina Cheroots, 10c. Made for most discriminating smokers.—Adv.

Mother Prays; Police Search for Lost Child

Nine-year-old Child Missing from Eighth Street Home Since Last Night.

While a distracted mother waits and prays at her home at 719 Eighth street southeast, members of the police department and a corps of volunteers are making a thorough search of that vicinity for Lola Farrelle, nine, who has not been seen since she started on an errand at 6:30 o'clock last night. The child is the daughter of Mrs. Blanche Mathias. Yesterday was the mother's birthday and in anticipation of a party, Lola was sent to a neighboring store for a supply of graphophone needles. Since then she has been seen by no one who knew her, and the police are sure she did not buy the needles. When the child did not return by midnight the police were called but no clue has been discovered. Early yesterday afternoon Lola asked permission to visit a certain motion picture theater on Eighth street and this was refused by her mother. It is the opinion of the latter that the girl might have gone to see the picture play when sent for the needles, and fearing punishment if she returned, contrived to stay out all night. The child is described as small for her age and very slender.

COL. CROOK IS DEAD; WAS LINCOLN GUARD

Chief Disbursing Officer of White House Knew Many Presidents Personally.

Col. William H. Crook, chief disbursing officer of the White House, and one of the bodyguards of President Lincoln, died of pneumonia today at his home, 324 Thirteenth street northwest.

President Wilson had just returned from his usual Saturday game of golf when the news of the death was received. The President, who had asked to be kept advised of the colonel's condition, was deeply moved. He had been sending flowers to the sick man's home daily.

Hanging on the wall beside the sick man's bed during his illness were autograph photographs of President Wilson and President Lincoln. Shortly before he was taken ill Colonel Crook asked the President for a picture of himself, requesting that something be inscribed there. The President, who was then in the White House, gladly acquiesced, subscribing across the bottom, "To my good friend, Colonel Crook, from Woodrow Wilson."

Last January Colonel Crook celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as an attaché of the White House. He was seventy-six years old at the time of his death.

On his anniversary, when his associates presented him a gold-mounted cane, the colonel declared that he would never forget the happenings of the day when Lincoln was assassinated. The day after that afternoon, he himself was taken Crook with him to the office of Secretary of War Stanton to discuss the reconstruction policy for the South.

Leaving the War department just as twilight was deepening over the city, the President and his guard went to the theater that evening. The guard, where Lincoln, turning and extending a hand to Crook, bade the latter good-bye.

With overwhelming force, a wave of excitement spread over the colonel. He felt that he was speaking to the President for the last time. Lincoln had explained that he was going to the theater that evening. Crook now begged to accompany him.

"No, no, Crook," said Lincoln, patting him on the shoulder. "You have been at work all day. Go home and rest." The guard who did accompany the President to the theater became interested in the play, and slipped away from the President's box for a better vantage point in the orchestra. Hardly had he left his post before Booth committed the assassination.

The colonel is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mary A. Garton, who recently celebrated his ninety-sixth birthday; his brother, Dr. Harrison Crook, who attended him, and one daughter, Mrs. Clarence A. Brandenburg, who was summoned yesterday to Washington, and is now on her way east. The funeral arrangements will be postponed pending her arrival.

PEARY'S OLD SHIP PURCHASED BY U. S.

Roosevelt, Which Took Explorers Within 300 Miles of Pole, to Sail Alaskan Seas.

The steamship Roosevelt, the tough little wooden vessel, which carried Adolph Peary to within 300 miles of his destination on the trip on which he discovered the North Pole, has been bought by the United States Bureau of Fisheries for service in the uncharted seas of Alaska.

It is probable that Captain Bartlett, master of the ship, will command her expedition, will command her. The Roosevelt was built in 1905 at Vero Beach, Me. She was bought from the Peary Arctic Club by a winning company, and was in use up and down the coast until the last year, when she was laid up in New York.

The boat originally cost about \$100,000. It is understood the Government got her for less than \$40,000.

BRITISH BEGIN NEW ADVANCE IN REGION OF NEUVE CHAPELLE

Preliminary to General Attack, Troops Capture German Trenches.

BELGIANS ON THE OFFENSIVE

Co-operation With Russian General Staff Indicated in Movement.

PARIS, March 13.—Continuing their progress in the Neuve Chapelle region, the British have stormed a series of German positions on the road to Aubers. The Germans have been driven from several groups of defended houses with heavy losses and the English have taken more than 1,000 prisoners.

This announcement was the feature of official dispatches to the war office this afternoon. They described the most furious fighting in many days in the district north of La Bassée and reaching northeastward in the direction of Lille. There were unconfirmed reports that the British are preparing to bombard Lille itself.

Preliminary to Advance. It is generally accepted that this movement is preliminary to the long awaited general advance upon the German lines planned by the general staff months ago.

It is understood that the movement is taken in full co-operation with the Russian plans and is intended not only to prevent the Germans from sending reinforcements to the eastern frontier, but to force them to weaken it possible the strength of the forces already there.

It is known that large bodies of fresh troops have been sent from England to the Continent and military authorities here assert that the lines are strong enough to maintain any ground that may be captured in the present advance.

Resuming the offensive early yesterday, the English infantry directed a series of daring attacks against the Germans on the roads leading eastward from Neuve Chapelle. The official dispatches again credit the Indian troops with great bravery in action.

Supported By French. The left and right of the advancing British were supported by vigorous French artillery fire. By a series of charges, the British captured several rows of the enemy's trenches on the route to Aubers, and occupied the hamlet of Pierre. Among the munitions of war taken by the British were several machine guns.

Near the southeast, the Belgians took the offensive and strengthened their positions at the bend of the Yser. In the Champagne region, the French again attacked continuing the successes on the slopes north of Meuse and taking 150 prisoners, including six officers.

The Germans attempted to charge the French positions in the Vosges, near Reichsackerkopf, but were beaten off. The German onslaught was preceded by a violent, but ineffective, artillery fire.

Kaiser Quits Effort to Retake Neuve Chapelle; Russ Retire on Grodno

BERLIN (via wireless to Saville), March 13.—The war office announces to-day that the Germans have abandoned their attempt to recapture Neuve Chapelle, taken by the British earlier in the week.

A German attack which had for its object the recapture of the village of Neuve Chapelle had a successful beginning," said the official statement. "But our forces encountered superior English forces. Therefore, the attempt was not continued."

The English are "showing the greatest activity" in this district, the war office states. British aviators are flying over the German positions, hurling bombs and mapping the gun positions. Three English air pilots have been brought down by German fire and captured within the last forty-eight hours.

Isolated English soldiers south of Ypres have been easily repulsed by the war office. The French have made unsuccessful attempts to renew their offensive in the Champagne region, but have been beaten off with heavy losses. The Germans taking 200 prisoners. Fog and heavy snow continue to hinder the operations in the Vosges.

In the east, the retreat of the Russians defeated near Augustow continues. The Czech army have fallen back across the Bohemian border, the protection of the guns of Grodno fortresses. Their withdrawal was so precipitate that a wide gap now separates the opposing forces in this region.

Northeast of Przasnysz and in the Orzez river valley, Russian attacks were repulsed with ease.

Burton Boom Launched. CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 13.—Cleveland Republicans launched a Presidential boom for Senator Theodore E. Burton at a luncheon today welcoming him back to Ohio from Washington.

THAW IS ACQUITTED OF CONSPIRACY, MAY GO FREE ON MONDAY

Verdict Returned as Sheriff and Detective Fight in Crowded Court Room.

JURY OUT NINETEEN HOURS

Motions Will Be Heard to Have Slayer Returned to New Hampshire.

NEW YORK, March 13.—Harry K. Thaw won a most important victory today in his fight for freedom.

A jury acquitted him of the charge of conspiring to escape from Matteawan asylum.

Next Monday Justice Page will hear arguments on a motion that may virtually set Stanford White's slayer free.

The verdict was returned at 12:20, after the jury had been out about nineteen hours. The verdict was brought in fifteen minutes after a request had come from the jury room for a rereading of certain parts of the court's instructions.

These parts dealt with Thaw's contention that he fully believed and was advised that he violated no law when he made his sensational flight by automobile from Matteawan.

Confident of Victory. Thaw went back to the Tombs supremely confident. He was certain, he said, that his attorneys will win the next fight, that begins before Justice Page on Monday, to have him returned to the jurisdiction of the New Hampshire courts—a move that will automatically give him his liberty.

The ending of the conspiracy trial came amidst a tumult in the courtroom. Sheriff Max S. Griffenhagen, of New York county, and John Lanyon, head of a detective agency employed by the district attorney's office, exchanged blows under Justice Page's bench. A court room full of spectators crowded to the front.

Police rushed the crowd, and drove them from the court room, using clubs freely.

Rushed To Tombs. Lanyon was taken into custody and rushed to the Tombs on order of Justice Page. Sheriff Griffenhagen, reported to have struck the first blow, was summoned to the justice's chambers.

The crowd was still jeering its way out of the room when the Thaw jury filed in with the verdict.

As the words "not guilty" came from the foreman, Bailey's lips Thaw's body straightened, usually. His large, mobile features broke into a radiant smile. Tears suffused his eyes. He choked, he spoke his happiness as his lawyers and friends rushed to shake his hand.

Then his head slowly turned and his eyes sought those of his aged gray-haired mother across the court room. Tears were streaming down her face and that of Thaw's sister, Mrs. George L. Carnegie. They seemed not to see Thaw in their apparent delirium of joy. Even Thaw's brother, Josiah, exhibited extreme emotion.

His Exit Triumphant. Thaw's exit from the court room was almost a triumph procession. Friends and spectators intercepted him, their hands stretched across the railings, as he walked toward the sheriff's office, where the Thaw family held a jubilant reunion.

That Thaw feared the jury's action, even after the brief time taken by them following refreshing of their memories regarding his testimony, was evident. Thaw was lined up, standing with his four assistants in the "dock."

As the jury filed in and the foreman arose Thaw stared perceptibly. His face set in tense anxiety. Closing his eyes his lips moved, apparently in mute prayer, as the foreman began his announcement of the verdict. Mrs. Thaw and Thaw's other relatives leaned far forward in their seats, their ears strained to catch the foreman's words.

None of the Thaw family had opportunity to thank the jury which fled out before Thaw could reach them.

GIVEN EIGHT-YEAR TERM FOR ROBBERY

Clarence B. Dewell Sentenced and Counsel Prepares to Appeal From Conviction.

Clarence B. Dewell, twenty-two, a member of the Engineer Corps, stationed at Washington Barracks, who was recently convicted on two charges of highway robbery and a charge of attempted robbery, was sentenced to eight years in the penitentiary by Chief Justice Clegg in Criminal Court No. 1, today. The maximum penalty possible was forty-five years' imprisonment.

Attorneys Wilton J. Lambert and Frederic H. Whipple, counsel for the defendant, are preparing to appeal the case, the court fixing Dewell's bond at \$5,000 pending the appeal. Assistant United States Attorney E. McComas Hawken prosecuted Dewell.

Famous Russian Called by Death



COUNT SERGIUS WITTE.

COUNT WITTE, NOTED DIPLOMAT, IS DEAD

Famed for Russia's Triumph Over Japan in Portsmouth Peace Session.

PETROGRAD, March 13.—Count Sergius Witte, former Russian premier and a dominant figure in international politics, is dead. It was officially announced today.

Count Witte owed his chief claim to fame to what was generally considered his diplomatic triumph over Japan in the Portsmouth peace negotiations, at the close of the Russo-Japanese war. Since his retirement as president of Russia's first constitutional ministry he had been engaged in a number of diplomatic ventures. He was reported in home last fall, attempting to induce Italy to join the allies.

Count Witte was born in Tiflis in June, 1849. After graduating from the University of Odessa he began his career as a clerk in a railway freight office. He advanced rapidly and his successful handling of the transportation problem in the Russo-Turkish war won him influence in official circles at Petrograd.

From an appointment as minister of ways of communication, Count Witte was advanced a few months later to the post of minister of finance. Later he was secretary of state to his majesty and privy councillor. When the first Russian constitutional ministry was formed he was made president, retiring in 1906.

Eight-Hour Law Is Upheld By Court

Justice McCoy Rules Against Hotel Company Stockholder in Suit Against District.

The constitutionality of the act of Congress "to regulate the hours of employees and safeguard the health of females employed in the District," approved February 24, 1914, was upheld by Justice McCoy, of the District Supreme Court, in an opinion handed down today.

The opinion sustained a motion by the corporation counsel to dismiss the bill of Basil B. Earnshaw, a stockholder of the Congress Hall Hotel Company, who sued the District Commissioners to prevent the enforcement of the law.

It was contended by Earnshaw that the act discriminated against hotels and restaurants in favor of boarding houses. Justice McCoy pointed out that the law was practically the same as the one in force in California, which had been held constitutional by the United States Supreme Court, the difference being that the act limited the employment of women to six days.

A strict enforcement of the law has already been undertaken by the District Commissioners.

FEARING MASSACRE, IN MEXICO, SPAIN URGES U. S. TO ACT

Ambassador Asks State Department to Take Up Matter With Leaders at Once—Riots Feared if Murderers of American Citizen Are Executed.

Declaring that since the killing of John B. McManus, the American citizen, in Mexico City, conditions have become more chaotic than ever there, the Spanish ambassador today again earnestly besought the State Department to use its good offices for the protection of Spanish citizens.

The ambassador was armed with dispatches from the Spanish embassy at Mexico City to the effect that there was widespread fear of a general uprising against the wealthy Spanish property owners.

Feeling against the Spaniards has been steadily growing, he indicated, and the killing of five citizens of Spain by Obregon's troops before the recent evacuation of the city bids fair to be followed by other attacks.

The great fear expressed here today is that the execution by Salazar of McManus' murderers may be followed by a mutiny of the Zapata soldiers and further outrages against Americans.

For that reason it is understood that the State Department has made it known to General Villa that his early arrival at the capital would be welcomed.

George W. Knoblauch, of New York, a partner of McManus, in the Sanitary Dairy Company, called at the State Department today and requested a conference with Secretary Bryan.

MAY SEE BRYAN MONDAY.

MINE SINKS SHIP OFF ENGLISH COAST

Steamer Supposed To Be of Swedish Registry—Part of the Crew Saved.

LONDON, March 13.—A steamer believed to be the Anna, of Sweden, was mined and sunk off Scarborough early today. Eighteen of the vessel's crew were reported saved in dispatches received here this afternoon. Two were instantly killed in the explosion.

Five Die, 15 Hurt, As Plant Explodes

Spark from Locomotive Causes Trouble; Fire Adds to Horror of Disaster.

NEW YORK, March 13.—Five men were instantly killed and fifteen others were seriously or not fatally injured in an explosion at the plant of the Levich Oil and Gas Company in Brooklyn today.

The bodies of the dead men were so badly charred that they are unrecognizable.

The explosion is believed to have been caused from a spark of an engine of the Long Island railroad.

Two fire alarms were sounded. Ambulances from all parts of the city were called and removed the injured to hospitals.

Fire broke out following the explosion and firemen experienced great difficulty in extinguishing the flames.

Boy Missing; May Try To Make Way to Florida

Search was instituted by the police today for Charles R. Wood, twelve, who disappeared from the home of his sister, Mrs. Anna Stewart, 1609 Thirtieth street northwest, yesterday.

The boy, whose parents live in Florida, was living with his sister while attending school in this city. He was reprimanded by his sister for staying out late Thursday night and disappeared from home in the morning. It is thought that young Wood will attempt to make his way back to his parents in Florida.

BECKER'S WITNESS CLAIMS "FRAME-UP"

Jacob L. Goldman, Who Signed Affidavit, Held in Cleveland on Forgery Charge.

CLEVELAND, March 13.—Jacob L. Goldman, aged twenty-four, who a week ago signed an affidavit, which it was hoped, might save Charles Becker from the death chair at Sing Sing, today declared that his arrest here last night on a forgery charge was a frame-up to prevent him testifying for Becker.

Goldman's arrest was on advice from New York.

White Star Liner Arabic Arrives From Liverpool

NEW YORK, March 13.—The White Star liner Arabic from Liverpool docked at 9:40 a. m. today, bringing an unusually heavy mail cargo.

She carried 300 cabin passengers and about the same number in the steerage.

Frank

The terrific arraignment of the prosecutor which preceded the jury's verdict of "GUILTY"

Black Box

First Installment of the Great Movie Serial

Oscar K. Davis' summing up of the situation as to our preparedness for

War

In the Sunday Times Tomorrow